

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 SAJ-01

SAM-01 NIC-01 /093 W

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R 200145Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7131

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3322

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID PT PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR GOVERNOR PIRES VISITS JAKARTA

1. PORTUGUESE TIMOR GOVERNOR COL MARIOS PIRES VISITED
JAKARTA MARCH 17-18 ON HIS WAY BACK TO DILI FROM CONSULTATIONS
IN LISBON. DURING HIS STAY IN JKARTA PIRES MET WITH
MIDDLE RANKING OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
ASIA PACIFIC DIRECTOR BRIGGEN ADENAN, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT
DIRGEN FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT HARIROESTAMAN, AND JAKARTA
GOVERNOR ALI SADIKIN. IN COMMENTS TO PRESS PIRES STATED
THAT DAILY LIFE IN TIMOR IS NORMAL, WITHOUT SERIOUS
INCIDENTS, BUT THAT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS POOR. HE EXPLAINED
THAT MANY PORTUGUESE TIMORESE HAD CROSSED INTO INDONESIA
TERRITORY BECAUSE THEY HAD RELATIVES THERE, AND THAT
THEY FREE TO RETURN ANY TIME.

2. PIRES WAS QUOTED AS STATING PORTUGAL DETERMINED TO
DECOLONIZE TIMOR, AND AS HAVING ASSURED GOI THAT GOP
WOULD PROVIDE FOR PEOPLE'S EXPRESSION OF SELF DETERMINATION.

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IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION HE STATED THERE NO PROBLEM OF

MERGER WITH INDONESIA IF THIS WISH OF MAJORITY OF PEOPLE.

3. PRIOR BOARDING PLANE MARCH 18 PIRES TOLD REPORTERS THAT "THERE IS NO COMMUNIST GHOST IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR," AND THAT "DOUBTLESS THE IDEA IS THERE, BUT THERE IS NO ACTIVITY." HE COMMENTED THAT HIS TALKS IN JAKARTA HAD BEEN USEFUL, THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PORTUGAL ARE GOOD, BUT COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED, AND THAT "I HAVE NEVER FEARED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN (INDONESIA) INVASION."

4. IN DISCUSSION MARCH 19 ADENAN TOLD POLCOUNSELOR PIRES VISIT HAD BEEN USEFUL ONE. ACCORDING ADENAN, PIRES GAVE GOI ASSURANCES GOP WOULD NOT ACCEPT UDT/FRETELIN PLAN WHICH WOULD ENVISAGE IMMEDIATE GRANTING OF DE JURE INDEPENDENCE FOLLOWED BY TRANSITION PERIOD IN WHICH PORTUGAL WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY LEADING ROLE. RATHER, GOP INTENDS TO ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF COUNCIL OR ASSEMBLY (NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER ELECTED OR APPOINTED) WHICH WOULD REPRESENT ALL ELEMENTS OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM. AFTER INTERIM PERIOD OF UNSPECIFIED LENGTH PORTUGUESE TIMORESE WOULD EXERCISE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION (METHOD NOT DECIDED).

5. ADENAN STATED THAT VISIT OF PIRES, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "LEFTIST BUT NOT COMMUNIST" HAD TO SOME DEGREE ALLEVIATED CONCERNS OF GOI, QUICKLY ADDING THAT OF COURSE VALUE OF PIRES' ASSURANCES DEPENDENT ON STABILITY OF GOP, WHICH FAR FROM CERTAIN. ADENAN SAID THAT HE HAD ONLY ASKED OF PIRES THAT DILI ADMINISTRATION NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST APODETI, AS FOR EXAMPLE HAD BEEN DONE WHEN APODETI HAD BEEN FORBIDDEN USE OF RADIO DILI, TO WHICH PIRES GAVE HIS AGREEMENT.

6. PIRES DEPARTED AFTERNOON OF MARCH 18 FOR KUPANG WHERE HE WILL HOLD TALKS WITH EAST NUSATENGARA GOVERNOR EL TARI. NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLONIALISM, INDEPENDENCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART03322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750097-0714
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750333/aaaabdjz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE TIMOR GOVERNOR PIRES VISITS JAKARTA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ID, PT, PO, (PIRES, MARIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006